

Governor Brad Henry announced on February 3 that he has selected Maj. Gen. Myles L. Deering, former commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), to be the next Adjutant General for Oklahoma. Deering replaces Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III who held the post since 2002 and was recently chosen to serve as the Director of the Air National Guard at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

A resident of Norman, Deering, 56, was serving as the Director, Manpower and Personnel at National Guard Bureau in Washington when he was tapped by Gov. Henry to be the State's top military officer. He will be Oklahoma's 19th Adjutant General since statehood and the first Army officer to hold the job since 1995.

"During his lengthy military career, Gen. Deering has distinguished himself as a dedicated Soldier and a seasoned leader capable of handling any and all challenges that come his way," said Gov. Henry. "Oklahoma will be in good hands with Gen. Deering as its top military officer."

"I'm extremely honored to be selected by Gov. Henry to be the next Adjutant General," said Deering who began his military career in 1971 as an enlisted Soldier in the United States Army Reserve. "The opportunity to lead the finest Soldiers and Airmen in the world is quite humbling."

Wyatt said he was very confident Deering would do well as the next Adjutant General and the citizens of the State will be well-served by his appointment. "Gen. Deering has demonstrated throughout his career that he is an outstanding officer with the experience and integrity to be a tremendous Adjutant General," Wyatt said. "The Oklahoma National Guard will continue to do remarkable things under Myles' outstanding leadership and guidance."

As Commander of the 45th IBCT, Deering served in Iraq last year, leading the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) in the International Zone, in Baghdad, Iraq. The JASG-C supported the Multi-National Force-Iraq, the United States Embassy Chief Mission, Coalition Forces, contractors and security elements located in the International Zone. Members of the 45th also supported detainee operations and security operations throughout Iraq during the deployment.

Prior to leading his troops in the Middle East, Deering led more than 2,500 Oklahoma Soldiers to New Orleans to support relief operations after Hurricane Katrina. Upon arriving, he assumed overall command of Task Force Orleans and more than 15,000 active duty, Guard and Reserve Personnel assigned to the city to provide security and continuing relief efforts.

Deering joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1977 and has held a variety of command and staff assignments. In 1983, he served as a Company Commander in the 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry in Holdenville, Oklahoma. Following a series of staff assignments, he was chosen to command the 700th Support Battalion in Oklahoma City in 1992. In December 2004, Deering returned to the 45th Infantry Brigade to serve as the commander, a position he held until last December.

Deering received a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1980 and a Master of Science from Oklahoma State University in 1996. He and his wife Pam have one son, Daniel, a veteran of Bosnia and Iraq, who is now completing his college degree program in journalism from the University of Oklahoma.

